

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: KEIRSGIETER, Petrus Jacobus

SERIAL NO.: 10/597,670

ART UNIT: 3732 (conf. 4738)

FILED: April 9, 2007

EXAMINER: Ballinger, M. R.

TITLE: DENTAL TREATMENT APPARATUS

Amendment B: CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Claims 1 - 12 (canceled).

13. (Currently amended) A connecting apparatus for use between a base and a treatment unit of a dental instrument assembly, the treatment unit having lines for supplying water, air or electricity, the connecting apparatus comprising:

a first part having connector ports suitable for connection to the lines of the treatment unit; and

a second part having connector ports thereof, said second part being suitable for coupling ~~coupled~~ to said first part, said second part having an opening through which a translatable pin is movable, said translatable pin having a first end fixed to a cable, said translatable pin having an outer flanged member and an inner flanged member at a second end thereof, said outer flanged member being in spaced parallel relation to said inner flanged member, said second part having a surface facing said first part, said translatable pin having a spring interposed between said inner flanged member and said surface of said second part so as to support said translatable pin in position relative to said second part, said cable suitable for moving said translatable pin through said opening against a force of said spring, said first part having a first opening of a diameter greater than a diameter of said outer flanged member, said first part having a key slot radially opening to said first

opening, said key slot having a diameter that is less than said diameter of said outer flanged member and larger than a diameter of said translatable pin, said key slot receiving said translatable pin therein an area between said outer flanged member and said inner flanged member so as to lean against said outer flanged member, said cable suitable for pulling on said translatable pin so as to draw said first part toward said second part such that said connector ports of said first part are coupled to said connector ports of said second part.

14. (Currently amended) The connecting apparatus of Claim 13, wherein said second part ~~having~~ has a sleeve, said translatable pin extending through said sleeve, said sleeve supporting said spring on said second part.

15. (Currently amended) The connecting apparatus of Claim 13, wherein one of said first and second parts ~~having~~ has at least a pair of guide pins, the other of said first and second parts having at least a pair of guide holes receiving the guide pins therein so as to fix a position of said first part relative to said second part.

16. (Currently amended) The connecting apparatus of Claim 15, wherein the guide pins ~~being~~ of have a conical shape.

17. (Currently amended) The connecting apparatus of Claim 15, wherein each of the guide pins ~~each having~~ has a length such that an end thereof extends beyond said inner flanged member.

18. (Currently amended) The connecting apparatus of Claim 17, wherein each of the guide holes ~~each having~~ have a guide slot suitable for receiving the end of the guide pin so as to allow the guide pin to slide toward the guide hole.

19. (Currently amended) The connecting apparatus of Claim 13, wherein one of the connector ports of said second part ~~being~~ is for an electrical supply, said one of said connector ports being

positioned above said translatable pin.

20. (Currently amended) The connecting apparatus of Claim 13, wherein one of the connector ports of said second part ~~being~~ is for an electrical current supply, another of the connector ports of said second part being for a water supply.

21. (Currently amended) The connecting apparatus of Claim 13, wherein said opening of said second part ~~being~~ is located centrally of said second part, said first opening of said first part located centrally of said first part.

22. (Currently amended) The connecting apparatus of Claim 13, wherein said first part ~~having~~ has a thickness, said outer flanged member being spaced from said inner flanged member by a distance slightly greater than ~~said~~ the thickness of said first part.

23. (Currently amended) The connecting apparatus of Claim 13, wherein said first opening ~~having~~ has a diameter that is less than a diameter of said inner flanged member.